

REMARKS

The amendment does not raise new issues that would require further consideration or search; the amendment materially reduces or simplifies the issues for appeal; and the amendment does not enter claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is proper, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-10 and 16 stand withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 11-15 stand rejected. Claims 17 is indicated as allowed.

2. Support for the Amendments

The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer of the canceled subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing or divisional application on any subject matter canceled by way of amendment.

Claim 11 and withdrawn claims 1-10 and 16 are canceled herein. Claims 12-15 are amended to depend from allowed claim 17. Claim 17 provides antecedent basis for the terms recited in claims 12-15. Accordingly, the amendment does not add subject matter that is unsupported by the application as filed.

The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer of the canceled subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing or divisional application on any subject matter canceled by way of amendment.

3. Rejections Withdrawn and Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, and the indication that claim 17 is allowable.

4. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Suzuki. The rejection is not applied against claim 17. Because claims 12-15 are herein amended to depend from claim 17, claims 12-15 likewise are not anticipated by Suzuki. The rejection accordingly should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0573. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is respectfully requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, who signs in his authority under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(b). If an Appeal Fee is required to maintain pendency of the present application, the Office is authorized to charge the Appeal Fee and use this paper as a Notice of Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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